

THE TOWN OF KENSINGTON'S AROUND TOWN JOURNAL

FEBRUARY 2♥♥9

3710 MITCHELL STREET, KENSINGTON, MARYLAND
301-949-2424 FAX: 301-949-4925 WWW.TOK.MD.GOV

UPCOMING EVENTS & MEETINGS

Sector Plan Open Office With Park & Planning

At Town Hall
Wed., Feb. 11 & 25
6:30—8:00 pm

Warner Mansion Committee Mtg.

Wed., Feb. 11 @ 7 pm

Wellness Clinic

Sat., Feb. 14
9am - 1pm

Town Offices Closed

Mon., Jan. 16 for
Presidents' Day

Town Council Meeting

Mon., Jan. 23 @ 7pm

Coffee with the Mayor

Fri., Feb. 27 @ 8-9 am



Town Council Meeting

Mon., Mar. 9 @ 7 pm

Town Council Meeting

Mon., Mar. 23 @ 7 pm

Montgomery County Council
Member Valerie Ervin will join
us for this meeting.



All Meetings located in
Town Hall

Please join us for the

VALENTINE'S WELLNESS CLINIC

Saturday, February 14th

9am—1pm

Kensington Town Hall

Last year's hugely successful **FREE** Wellness Clinic is back.

Everyone is invited to have their blood cholesterol and other lipids tested, have an electrocardiogram (EKG), have blood pressure checked, have BMI's calculated and complete a cardiac risk assessment tool. Come to learn what your risks really are and how to modify them. FREE seated chair massage! Learn about diet and MORE. While you're there, get a jump start on cardiac fitness and learn from the experts. Take part in some exercise classes.

Dr. Cindy Tracy (Director, Cardiac Services, George Washington University Hospital and Kensington Town resident) said professionals will be available to answer questions. Light refreshments and coffee will be available.

SHOW YOU REALLY CARE & BRING YOUR VALENTINE'S DATE!

FOR BEST TEST RESULTS,

PLEASE FAST BEFORE ARRIVAL

Sponsored By:

Town of Kensington ♥♥ George Washington University Hospital
George Washington University Medical Faculty Associates
St. Jude Medical, Inc. ♥♥ Medtronic Inc.
Richard B and Lynne V Cheney Cardiovascular Institute
Café 1894

A LETTER FROM THE MAYOR:

Dear Residents,

I had the honor of addressing Ms. Mellott's first grade class at Parkwood Elementary School. It was a pleasant surprise to see so many of your children or grandchildren in the classroom – a couple of the students recognized me and shouted "Pete!"

I gave the students a basic account of my mayoral responsibilities to the Town; shared the official gavel, my State badge, and a mini – replica of the Kensington fire engine. I underestimated the caliber of the questions that would be asked of me, which became apparent with the first: "Are you a weak Mayor or a strong Mayor form of government?" Additional questions included if I liked being the Mayor, the number of meetings I attend per month, and my favorite part of being an elected official?

All of the children were polite and well behaved. The bigger thrill was not as much meeting me as it was my parting gifts of Town flashlights and ballpoint pens.

I left feeling good about being a mayor, while reminded of my own childhood and the simple things in life. Thank you to Ms. Mellott, all of her students, and my good friend Miles Carr!

Sincerely,



Peter Fosselman



A Message from Barrie Carr:

Yesterday's visit with Mayor Fosselman was great fun. The children asked terrific questions pertaining to local government and loved hearing about the Labor Day Parade. Mayor Fosselman brought with him his gavel and badge and a replica of one of the historic Kensington fire engines. He really enjoyed being with the kids.

AROUND TOWN ...

Merchant's Meet with the Mayor

An open meeting of merchants and business owners was held February 5th at Town Hall. This is the third time the Mayor has held a meeting of this kind, with the purpose of increasing conversation with the business community, hearing suggestions and addressing concerns. Several dozen people participated, representing individual stores and businesses, the Kensington Business District Association (KBDA), the Old Town Kensington Merchants Association and the West Howard Avenue Merchants Association. The Town's public relations firm, Maier & Warner, displayed pictures of the proposed colorful banners that would visually enhance the business district along Howard and Connecticut Avenues. They also unveiled the proposed "Explore Kensington" website which will highlight our Town's many retail and business offerings.

West Howard Avenue Urban Design Study

The Montgomery County Department of Housing and Community Affairs hosted a meeting in Town Hall on February 4th to discuss its West Howard Avenue Urban Design Study. Over 75 people joined the County officials and representatives from its contracted consulting firm to discuss the development of the Design Study. Topics included drainage, pedestrian and vehicular circulation, streetscape and façade improvements, signage and sustainability. The County will host a follow-up meeting on Wednesday, March 11th. All are invited.

Snow Removal Policy Reminder for Residents & Businesses

Residents and business owners **MUST CLEAR THEIR SIDEWALKS WITHIN 24 HOURS OF THE SNOWFALL'S ENDING.** Anyone who needs help with this requirement, should call Town Hall.



January 26, 2009

Louise Hamilton was presented with a Proclamation and gift thanking her for 20 years of dedicated and exemplary employment. As Code Enforcement Officer, Louise has worked to insure the continuing health, safety and public interest of the residents of Kensington. She has also helped to enhance the beauty of Kensington as a member of the Tree Committee and as the overseer of our Town's parks and landscaped areas; has taught hundreds of our children to respect and enjoy nature by organizing and promoting our Town's observance of the nationally-celebrated Arbor Day Celebration; and has contributed to the enjoyment of many during her years as coordinator of Kensington's Annual Labor Day Parade.

Kensington is indeed fortunate to have Louise!

Recent Building Permits

Addition and deck at 3508 Perry Avenue
Enclose car port at 3416 Oberon Street

TAX REMINDER:

Please write "Town of Kensington" in the box marked city, town, or taxing area on the Maryland Tax Return 2008 Form 502/503. This insures a portion of your tax dollars are returned to the Town.

Kensington Arts Theatre...It will *change* the way you see.

ONE RED FLOWER

Created by Emmy Award-winning director, **Paris Barclay**, *One Red Flower* is an intense glimpse into the lives of six young soldiers involved in the Vietnam War. Inspired by the book, *Dear America: Letters Home From Vietnam*, edited by **Bernard Edelman** for the New York Vietnam Veterans Memorial Commission, the show expresses the tender emotions of soldiers' lives during war by using actual letters written by Vietnam War soldiers and their loved ones.



Performance dates:

February 20, 21, 27, 28

March 5, 6, 7, 8 (7pm), 13, 14

(all times at 8pm unless otherwise noted)

For tickets and info, go to:

www.katonline.org or call 240-396-4307

Homestead Tax Credit Application

Included with the recent assessment notice you received from the State, is an Application for Homestead Tax Credit Eligibility. The owner(s) of the residential property identified in the assessment notice who uses it as his or her principal residence **must** complete and submit this one-time application in order to receive continued eligibility for the Homestead Tax Credit. This law limits the amount of yearly assessment increase on which an eligible resident homeowner actually pays county, municipal and state property taxes. If you file your application electronically, have your "Access Number" at hand. It's located on the reverse side of the paper application at the top.

Kensingtown's List Serve—R U Connected?

To Join: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/kensingtown/>

A total of 909 messages were posted to the Kensingtown List Serve during 2008. This is an average of fewer than 3 messages per day. At year end we had 200 active members. All are Town residents or former residents with a very small number of exceptions.

Here's a sampling of the List Serve entries of the past month: Electronics Recycling Event * Painter wanted * Dog walker needed* Coyote on Prospect Street * Theft from car *Support our local businesses *Children's entertainment * Diamond Ring Found * Snow Removal or 4 Wheel Drive Assistance in Snow * Book Talk Scheduled.

Thank you resident Al Carr for the above statistics. Al is also our Maryland State Delegate from District 18. The Town also thanks to former Town Council Member Dave Beaudet for maintaining this Yahoo List Serve.

A Note of Caution for Yahoo Groups

From Town resident Matt Severns

"Kensingtown is hosted at Yahoo groups. Recently, Yahoo changed their policy and be aware that Yahoo is now using "Web Beacons" to track every Yahoo Group user. It's similar to cookies, but allows Yahoo to record every website and every group you visit, even when you're not connected to Yahoo." For details, go to Yahoo's updated privacy statement at: <http://info.yahoo.com/privacy/us/yahoo/details.html>

Pick Up Schedule —

Mondays— Brush

Tuesdays & Fridays — Trash

Wednesdays— Recycling

This schedule will continue until further notice. Please have items ready for pick up by 7 a.m. Additional or replacement blue recycling bins are on sale in Town Hall for \$7.00. New residents receive the first bin for free.



Help for Maryland Families

<http://www.maryland.gov/portal/server.pt?open=514&objID=4107&cached=true&mode=2>

The State government has compiled several resources and suggestions for families and they are all available on this website. According to Governor Martin O'Malley, "To help Maryland families during these cold winter months and uncertain economic times, we have prepared this webpage to help qualifying citizens locate and access a range of State assistive programs and services."

Test Your Writing Skills

If I Were Mayor I Would ...Essay Contest

The Maryland Municipal League (MML) and the Maryland Mayors' Association invites 4th graders throughout Maryland to participate in a statewide 75-word limit essay contest. Deadline is April 1st.

Questions? Contact MML at 1-800-492-7121 or www.mdmunicipal.org.



Town Council Meeting, 7:05 p.m.

December 8, 2008

Council Member Scott (Mayor Pro Tem), Council Members Donatelli, McMullen, and Thompson, Town Manager Sanford Daily, Clerk Treasurer Susan Engels, and Building Inspector Neil Stablow were present. Mayor Fosselman and the Mayor's Assistant Claudia Donnelly were necessarily absent. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and a moment of silence observed.

The Town Meeting on December 22, 2008 will not be held due to the holiday week, the next Town Meeting will be on January 12, 2009.

Council Member Thompson attended the Tree Lighting Event, noted the flag needed to be illuminated at night, and suggested selling old street signs when they are taken down.

Council Member Donatelli had the second meeting with the Revitalization Committee, Maier Warner presented ideas for banners, no decisions were made.

The Town Manager gave a report to the Council from the Traffic Engineer on the status of resurfacing projects; noted leaf collection will terminate on December 18th and will then need to be bagged; noted there will not be trash pickup on the Fridays following Christmas and New Years; and a survey will be put on the list serve soliciting comments on trash collection and recycle days.

Council Member McMullen reported he attended the MML Chapter Dinner and thanked the Town Manager for getting the attention of County Council Member Floreen regarding the traffic on Connecticut Avenue; and he will be putting together two documents for the Marc Train Hearing, written testimony and a letter which he will be circulating to the Council for comments.

A Public Hearing was held on a variance request for 3906 Prospect Street. The owners and their architect were present and requested a two foot variance from the Town's ten foot side yard setback on one side. They stated that although the square footage of the addition was more than the 650 square feet required for an exemption to the side yard setback, the net effect was less because of the garage structure being removed. They also stated the addition could be moved over two feet and a variance would not be needed but it would be closer to the neighboring property and not line up with the current house. A letter was received in opposition from a neighboring property owner. A resident commented at the Hearing that it was not a small lot or extremely small house, the entire side of the house could be visible from Connecticut Avenue due to trees not being permanent, and suggested any conditions on not allowing a garage convey with the property not just the owner. The Town Building Inspector noted the following: when the Town's ordinance was written the intent was that a house smaller than average size would be considered unique for consideration in a variance; HPC would not allow a garage to be added to the property; and the view from Connecticut Avenue would be the same if the property was shifted over two feet. See Council Actions.

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Council Member McMullen suggested the variance criteria should be clarified in the future if the Town's intention is to net out other structures of the square footage exemption.

Council Member Scott reported the results of the Traffic Committee meeting as follows: Montgomery Avenue area was discussed. Mackie Barch had worked with the other residents on Montgomery Avenue to attempt to slow traffic entering and exiting Montgomery Avenue from Howard Avenue and Kensington Parkway. The Committee attendees requested a cost estimate and a review of any studies that have been conducted concerning speeding, pedestrian issues, and/or accidents at the intersection. No recommendations were made.; the North side of Town was discussed, no changes were made, representatives from Kensington Heights are planning on contacting the County to see if the restriction can be moved to University and St. Paul. The Committee reminded the Kensington Heights residents that the changes were suggested to help them, the Town residents will not benefit from any changes.; changing or removing the timed restrictions on Wake and Kent Street were discussed, no changes were made,- residents will be asked not to park in front of the stop sign and to make sure their cars are not obstructing traffic in the middle of the street. Council Member McMullen said he will talk to the residents who are parking too close to the stop sign and too far into the street; A permanent Traffic Committee will be formed.

A resident thanked the Town for the financial seminar and the holiday event, especially the Mayor, Claudia Donnelly, and Shirley Watson.

Council Member McMullen suggested the sign at Safe-way informing of the right turn only at Connecticut Avenue be relocated to the proper location.

Council Actions

Council Member Thompson moved to approve the minutes from November 10, 2008. The motion passed unanimously 3 to 0. Council Member McMullen was not present.

Council Member Thompson moved to instruct the staff to prepare a resolution to grant the variance with the condition that no further permits be issued

for garages on the property. Under discussion, Council Member McMullen noted the following reasons for approving the variance: based on a previous Council's intentions, as noted by the building inspector, it would be considered an unusual circumstance if the existing house had extremely small square footage; and the owners would not need a variance if the addition was moved over two feet closer to the neighboring house. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member McMullen moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 pm. The motion passed unanimously.



The Council meeting scheduled for January 12, 2009 was cancelled due to a lack of a quorum.



Town Council Meeting January 26, 2009

Closed Session 6:00 p.m.

Mayor Fosselman, Council Members McMullen, Scott, and Thompson, Town Attorney Suellen Ferguson, and Town Manager Sanford Daily were present.

Council Member Scott moved to close the meeting to discuss a legal matter relating to the Konterra Property with the Town Attorney at 5:30 p.m. The motion passed 3-0. No Actions were taken.

Town Meeting, 7:05 p.m.

Mayor Fosselman, Council Members McMullen, Scott, and Thompson, Town Manager Sanford Daily, Code Enforcement Officer Louise Hamilton, Mayor's Assistant Claudia Donnelly, and Clerk Treasurer Susan Engels were present. Council Member Donatelli was necessarily absent. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and a moment of silence observed for Lisa Flaxman and Lawrence "Quinn" W. Secrest.

The Mayor and Council recognized Louise Hamilton, Code Enforcement Officer, for twenty years of dedicated service to the Town. A proclamation was read by the Mayor.

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The Code Enforcement Officer gave the following report: parking citations were issued for parking in residential areas without a permit; warnings were given for the new no parking signs on Armory Avenue; letters were sent to 10417 and 10413 Metropolitan Avenue for parking on the grass, 10421 Metropolitan Avenue for overnight commercial parking, 10566 Metropolitan Avenue for parking over the right of way, 10209 Connecticut Avenue for parking over the curb and sidewalk, and 10410 N. Kensington Parkway for open dumpster screening gates; Montgomery County regulations are being checked on displays outside of commercial businesses and on U-Haul storage parking; planters have been removed from the medians for winter storage; three large trees will be removed with authority from the Forester and Arborist; spring bulbs have been planted; spring tree planting will begin in March; a tree along with roots were removed from St. Paul Park's play area; and letters were sent to businesses regarding early morning trash pickup. A resident noted parking on the lawn at 3805 Kent Street which will be investigated.

Brenda Sandberg from MNCPPC gave a status update on the Warner Property. She discussed possible public agency uses for the property along with a draft schedule for the planning process. She also discussed the demolition of the non historic nursing home wing, answered questions from residents and requested input from the Town on possible public uses. She noted Town residents can contact MNCPPC park staff if they are interested in scheduling outdoor concerts or events. The Mayor and Council discussed the resolution supporting demolition of the wing. See Council Actions.

A Warner Circle Committee meeting will be scheduled to discuss recommendations for the property and the Council will discuss it further at the second meeting in February.

The Mayor reported the following: he thanked Helen Wilkes and Mayor Shawaker for serving on the Warner Circle Committee; he thanked residents for notification of the Hearing on the Reynolds property; a letter was sent to Safeway regarding issues with the site that have not been resolved, the one hour parking only signs were temporary and will be removed; he thanked Council Member McMullen for testifying on MARC train issues; the County will be holding a West Howard Avenue Meeting regarding revitalization on February 4 at Town Hall; a quarterly Business

Merchants Meeting will be held on February 5 at Town Hall with a presentation of the Town's branding plan; attended Committee for Montgomery Breakfast; testified on state bills, the sector plan, and the sign ordinance; attended house hearings on local bills; attended a Revitalization Committee Meeting on December 15th; held a Coffee with the Mayor on December 16th; attended the Audit Committee Meeting and thanked the members; attended the Warner Circle Committee Meeting; led a delegation of Mayors to visit with the Governor last month for the Mayors Association; attended purple line meetings and testified on behalf of the Town, light rail using the crescent trail was supported by the County Executive; attended events for local delegates and senators who have been very supportive of the Town in the past with legislation; attended the local MML Chapter Meeting of the Executive Board; attended County Executive Leggett's press conference on Yes Montgomery Can, appreciated everyone in Town who contributed can food products; attended the opening session of the State's General Assembly, where Kensington was recognized; attended the Legislative Committee for MML along with a reception for legislators; attended planning board hearings on the BRAC Committee Report; attended the MML Chapter Meeting; attended the Maryland Downtown Development Association Annual Meeting, which had good ideas for Kensington's downtown area; and attended a Hearing on state legislation with the County Council.

The Mayor noted the sign ordinance he testified in favor of would enhance the commercial sign authority of municipalities in Montgomery and Prince George's County.

Council Member McMullen reported he attended the Audit Committee Meeting, thanked them for their work and noted a neighborhood boy will be collecting food, blankets, and warm clothing for a community service project at the Wellness Clinic on February 14th.

Council Member Scott reported Traffic Committee notes were posted on the website and she is still waiting to hear back from Kensington Heights on their request with the County to move the do not enter signs to University Boulevard.

Council Member Thompson reported he attended two events for legislators and is working with the Town

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Manager on the traffic lights at the intersection of Plyers Mill Road and Connecticut Avenue.

The Mayor reported the Audit Committee met and reviewed the Audit and filed a summary report. Leslie Olson, a member of the Audit Committee was present.

The Mayor discussed the Town's current reserves and the Town Manager noted the Town will be receiving less than projected from the State for highway user and income tax revenue which will impact next fiscal year's budget.

The intersection redesign of Kensington Parkway and Montgomery Avenue was discussed. Mackie Barch presented pictures of the existing intersection and the proposed intersection. He explained the proposed design would better define the intersection, improve safety and solve traffic concerns.

Traffic engineer Joe Cutro discussed the design and the projected cost of \$110,000. He stated the cost could be reduced to \$90,000 depending on the number of storm drain inlets needed, whether concrete or brick pavers are used in certain areas, and whether one of the decorative crosswalks is needed.

The Town Manager noted if some planned resurfacing projects were postponed the intersection could be done in the current approved street resurfacing contract. The Mayor noted resurfacing East Howard and Wheatley were priorities and suggested the subject intersection could be put in the next budget year.

Residents commented in favor of the plan, expressed concern over the cost and concern the Traffic Committee had not reviewed it, and suggested also changing the addresses on Montgomery Avenue.

Council Member McMullen approved the design but expressed concerns over the cost and the agenda only reflecting a review of the cost not approval. See Council Actions.

A survey will be sent out to residents regarding the current trash, brush and recycle pick up.

In from the public, Residents alerted the Town of vandalism to a car; requested the brick sidewalk in front of Tea room be repaired, reported damage to the temporary Farmers Market sign; requested the crosswalk at St. Paul and Metropolitan be painted, noted the Pepco light at the corner of St. Paul and

Metropolitan is out, requested a do not block the intersection sign at Connecticut and Baltimore, and requested removal of the signs in the bus stop at Safeway which are blocking the view for cars. The Mayor noted SHA will be doing enhancements at St. Paul and Metropolitan this spring including signage, lighting, and a brick imprint crosswalk; the appropriate agency will be contacted for the bus stop sign removal; the brick sidewalk will be checked and repaired if needed; the Pepco light has been reported; and SHA will be contacted regarding a do not block the intersection sign.

The resolution to enter into an agreement with Montgomery County for a new parking lot was deferred until some additional questions have been answered.

Council Member Thompson noted the Council held a closed meeting to for the purpose of discussing the Fourth Amendment to the Real Estate Reciprocal Exchange Agreement, the Easement Agreement between Konterra Limited Partnership and Montgomery County, and the License and Construction Agreement between Montgomery County and the Town of Kensington.

Council Actions

Council Member McMullen moved to approve the minutes from December 8, 2008. The motion passed unanimously 3 to 0. Council Member Donatelli was not present.

Council Member Thompson moved to approve the resolution supporting the demolition of the Warner Circle Nursing Home wing (Resolution No. 2009-01). The motion passed unanimously 3 to 0. Council Member Donatelli was not present.

Council Member Scott moved to approve the proposed design of Kensington Parkway and Montgomery Avenue with the project being funded in the FY2010 budget. The motion passed unanimously 3 to 0. Council Member Donatelli was not present.

Council Member Thompson moved to approve the resolution granting a side yard variance for 3906 Prospect Street (Resolution No. 2009-02). The motion passed unanimously 3 to 0. Council Member Donatelli was not present.

Council Member Scott moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 pm. The motion passed unanimously 3 to 0. Council Member Donatelli was not present. 